



February 19, 2013

Senators Harp and Kane  
Representatives Walker and Miner  
Appropriations Committee  
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Harp, Senator Kane, Representative Walker and Representative Miner,

We are writing you in support of keeping the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) as an independent entity dedicated to identifying issues affecting women in our state and providing public policy research.

The Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk, Inc. (JLSN) is a women's civic organization comprised of 400 women. One of the tenets of our mission – and those of our 292 sister Leagues across the country – is to develop the potential of women. The PCSW consistently highlights the complexity and breadth of the issues women face in Connecticut in the areas of economic and financial security, health and safety, and the elimination of gender discrimination. Its work is consistently utilized by the JLSN when delivering on our mission. We are grateful to have this invaluable asset to support and enhance our work in the community.

PCSW has touched the lives of all Connecticut women in the 40 years since its inception, and it goes well beyond the typically considered "women's" issues. It monitors bills in the State Legislature; provides expert testimony on critical women's issues; and holds public hearings to elicit feedback so it can be a true voice for the women and children it serves. Every year it connects hundreds of women to organizations across the state and nation who may otherwise not find the research assistance or services they need to aide with critical issues such as education, divorce or domestic violence.

It would be shortsighted, and a detriment to the State of Connecticut, to change the PCSW's status; thus, it is our sincere hope you will reconsider the proposed budget changes impacting the PCSW and allow it to continue operating independently of other special commissions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Brown Neumann  
President, Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk, Inc.  
748 Post Road  
Darien, CT 06820  
203.655.4662  
sarahneumann@sbcglobal.net

*The Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk, Inc. (JLSN) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.*